



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

STANLEY PRUSS
DIRECTOR

Michigan Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs

State Capitol
Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48233

April 21, 2010
Meeting Minutes No. 274

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 9:10p.m.

Commissioners Present: Lawrence Garcia, Fred Feliciano, Olga Hernández-Patino, Maria Elena Rodriguez, Rick García, Art Luna, Gil Guzman, Art Reyes, Mike Ramírez, Leonard Savala, Michael Espinoza, Debra Ehrmann, Benjamin Inquilla

Absent: Arminda García, Alicia Villarreal

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria García, Alvaro Zarco-Student Intern

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Welcoming Remarks

None.

IV. Approval of Absences:

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia motioned to approve the absences of Commissioner Alicia Villarreal. Commissioner Luna supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Espinoza motioned to approve the agenda of April 21, 2010. Commissioner Feliciano supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Minutes

No minutes.

VII. Public Forum

Rachel Aviles, Detroit: Ms. Aviles said this was an amazing day that had a lot of potential and helpful for Hispanics. She said a lot of students could not participate due to exam week and if we moved the event forward a few weeks, we would have better attendance for next year. She suggested we invite high school students for next year too. She thinks using different flyers to attract different ages/groups would be a good idea.

Maria Salinas, Grand Rapids: Ms. Salinas said this year's event was a good start but we shouldn't stop advocacy throughout the rest of the year. She said we would follow-up more in different cities to bring more people and sponsors and set more appointments up with legislators in advance.

Laura Gonzales, Mt. Pleasant: Ms. Gonzales thought this was a great event. She suggested putting forms and all information on the website.

Lilly Cavanaugh: Ms. Cavanaugh suggested arranging carpools or a van to assist students and other individuals with a way to get to the event.

Lilliana Ospina-Herbstreith: Ms. Ospina-Herbstreith commented that for next year we should do a public service announcement and engage university student groups.

Gil Guevarra: Mr. Guevarra said it was an excellent day. He was able to meet with two Senators that talked with him for 30 minutes.

VIII. Executive Reports

Chairperson's Report:

No report. Discussion of *MI Hispanic Advocacy Day* under New Business.

B. Executive Director's Report:

No report.

IX. Committee Reports:

Economic Development: no report

Education: No report

Legislative & Civic Engagement: No report.

X. Old Business:

None

XI. New Business:

- 1) Michigan Hispanic Advocacy Day – Chairman Garcia thanked staff and Commissioner Rodriguez for putting together all the red folders, tote bags and the necessary materials. He stated it would be better however if more people were involved in the planning and execution of the event. He stated he felt the event was very rewarding talking with the legislators.

Commissioner Rodriguez agreed it was a great event. She stated that we need to meet with the legislators from the Traverse City area where there are many problems.???

Commissioner Feliciano stated this was an excellent foundation to grow upon. The planning for next year needs to start tomorrow. This can not be just an annual event. This event can actively promote our presence, build leadership and synergy. A lot of work was accomplished in a short amount of time. This was an exciting day.

Commissioner Rick Garcia thanked everyone for their hard work and said this was an excellent starting point for this event. He stated we need to work with more volunteers. He was very happy to see so many high school students.

Commissioner Guzman stated that the date selected is always a gamble. That we did advertised the event.

Commissioner Savala suggested asking people why they didn't show up.

Attendees Maria Salinas suggested holding people responsible by asking for a fee to attend. Commissioner Savala suggested a \$5 donation.

Chairman Garcia stated that even though this was a great event, the event is not just a COSSA. We (COSSA) don't want ownership. We don't want to send the message that others can't be part of it.

Commissioner Rodriguez commented that COSSA is way behind what other state Commissions are doing in other states.

Commissioner Guzman commented on the wonderful leadership provided by Chairman Garcia. Executive Director Mason agreed. She is thankful for his leadership and things are moving along nicely within the Commission.

Attendee Emily Martinez stated she served on the COSSA for 14 years. She has been off COSSA for the past three years but is very happy to see the direction it is going in and doing what we were intended to do. Executive Director Mason commented that Emily Martinez is responsible for the attendance of the 35 high schools students from Adrian.

Commissioner Inquilla commented that SB215 was out of committee. He will be emailing Commissioners with information on a new marriage license issue.

Commissioner Espinoza stated there was not as much media coverage as he had hoped. Director Mason advised that the Media Office had sent out at least 10 press releases leading up to the event.

Commissioner Ramirez stated he would like to see more student groups involved next year. He also suggested combining with Hispanic Heritage Month.

Commissioner Reyes added he thought the event was a tremendous success and was very happy to see so many high school students. He stated there are areas to improve upon that we can discuss after reviewing the evaluation forms. He agreed with Commissioner Ramirez with the possibility of hold the next MHAD in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month.

Commissioner Savala agreed that we need to include more high school and college student students for next year's event.

2) Next meeting date and location: Kalamazoo, May 7, 2010 – Western MI University

Adjournment at 3:50 p.m.


Prepared by Commission staff:



Lawrence Garcia
Chairperson

05/07/2010

Date



Olga Hernandez-Patino
Secretary

5/7/10

Date